

**LOUISVILLE METRO CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Thursday, November 20, 2008**

**Members Present:** Judge Judith Bartholomew, Chair; Major Rodney Middleton (Designee for Col. Aubrey); Arnold Fitzgerald (designee for Richard Badaracco); Joe Miller (Designee for Gary Barnes); William DeNardi; Elisa Freeman-Carr; Dan Goyette; Roger Henderson; Carla Kreitman; Richard Lewis; David Nicholson; Judge James Shake; and Clarence Williams.

**Excused Members:** Sheriall Cunningham; Tom Dyke (designee for David Huber); and Bishop Walter Jones, Jr.

**Guests Present:** Ellen Yonts Brownfield (Office of the Jefferson County Attorney); Robert Elliot (Seven Counties Services, Inc.); Marlene Gordon (The Coalition for the Homeless); Joe Hamilton (Louisville Metro Office for Homelessness, Inc.); Dr. Peggy Kidwell (Criminal Psychologist); Roosevelt Lightsy, Jr. (Newburg Justice Reinvestment Pilot Project); Glenn Minor (Louisville Metro Re-entry Task Force); Maurice Risner (Jefferson County Public Schools); and Senlin Ward (The Coalition for the Homeless).

**Staff Present:** Kim Allen; Faith Augustine; Bruce McMichael; Tracey Neathery; and Stephanie Stidham.

**I. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER**

Judge Bartholomew called the meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance, and introduced guests.

Judge Bartholomew called on Harry Rothgerber, a Seven Counties Services, Inc. Board Member, for presentation of the Sunrise Award. Mr. Rothgerber introduced the following guests: Dr. Howard Bracco, Chief Executive Officer; Dean Johnson, Vice President of Communications; Robert Elliot, Chairman of the Board; Paula Hanshaw, Board Member; and Charlotte VanMeter, Criminal Justice Team. Chairman Elliot took the floor to present the award. The Sunrise Award is given for outstanding cooperation and collaboration to further the mission of Seven Counties Services, Inc. This year the award was presented to Judge Judith Bartholomew for her work in creating and sustaining Kentucky's first Mental Health Court (Enhanced Supervision Docket). In accepting the award, Judge Bartholomew expressed appreciation to all individuals and groups who have dedicated time and energy to making the Enhanced Supervision Docket become a viable and valuable program.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 16, 2008 MEETING**

The summary of the October 16, 2008 meeting was unanimously approved as submitted.

## **III. CHAIR'S REPORT**

The next Criminal Justice Commission Board meeting will be held on February 19, 2009. Judge Bartholomew advised that the meeting will be used as a planning session for the Board. She will send out a letter with additional information regarding the purpose of the meeting along with materials to review prior to the meeting. Judge Bartholomew also requested that all appointed members plan to attend in lieu of sending a designee and set aside two hours on their calendars for the meeting.

## **IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

### **Cost of Homelessness in Metropolitan Louisville**

**Presenters:** Marlene Gordon, Executive Director, The Coalition for the Homeless  
Senlin Ward, Strategic Planning & Development, The Coalition for the Homeless  
Joe Hamilton, Director, Louisville Metro Office for Homelessness, Inc.

Senlin Ward noted that the report on the "Cost of Homelessness" is the result of a two- year study of 7,108 single homeless adults. The report defines the problem and details the services used by these individuals in 2004 and 2005. It tracks the use and costs of residential homeless services as well as correctional, mental health and substance abuse, and healthcare services.

Based on findings in the report, Ms. Gordon indicated that each survey participant cost \$12,493 over the two years of the study. The study found that providing permanent housing to these vulnerable persons could save the community \$6.4 million for the same span of time.

Mr. Hamilton reported that a ten-year "Blueprint for the Future" has been developed with a goal of eliminating homelessness. In the document, ten essential elements for success were identified. A recent update recognizes accomplishments to date and delineates three-year outcomes for each element.

Detailed information regarding the study and its outcomes are included in the pamphlet, "The Cost of Homelessness", which was distributed to attendees.

## **Overview of the Louisville Metro Reentry Task Force**

**Presenter:** Glenn Minor, Deputy Director, Louisville Metro Reentry Task Force  
Mr. Minor reported that the mission of the Louisville Metro Reentry Task Force (LMRTF) is to act as the umbrella organization and clearinghouse of information for all local ex-offender reentry programs, initiatives and funding opportunities, while promoting public safety and increasing public awareness. Task Force members represent all components of the reentry process and meet monthly to discuss issues and current trends as well as to share information on available reentry resources.

According to Mr. Minor, the LMRTF has been instrumental in coordinating existing services and enhancing access to available services. A 24-hour resource line was established by the Kentucky Department of Corrections to provide information about available treatment, housing, employment and emergency services. Probationers, parolees, serve-outs, or anyone impacted by incarceration can call the toll free number (1-877-inmate4) or access a resource directory via the internet. The resource line is answered by graduates of the Substance Abuse Program housed at the Roederer Correctional Complex. This program has been very successful and other states are interested in replicating the service.

Mr. Minor also noted that housing and employment continue to be major obstacles for ex-offenders. The LMRTF is in the process of developing one hundred standards for transitional and/or treatment houses in Louisville Metro, and will work with the Metro Council to implement. Additionally, Mr. Minor acknowledged David Nicholson, Circuit Court Clerk, and thanked him for collaborating with the Department of Corrections to issue identification cards to individuals released from institutions without proper documentation. The downtown driver's license branch will accept letters provided by DOC at release as acceptable documentation to obtain identification cards.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Kim Allen reported that there are currently two state-level groups that are focusing on sentencing and Penal Code reform and developing legislative recommendations. The Kentucky Criminal Justice Council will finalize its recommendations on Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. The Penal Code and Controlled Substances Act Subcommittee, a subgroup of the Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary, is co-chaired by Senator Neal and Representative Hoover. The subcommittee has met twice to hear testimony from a number of speakers including Retired Chief Justice Palmore; Professor Robert Lawson; Chris Cohron, President of the Kentucky Commonwealth's Attorneys Association; Ernie Lewis, Former Public Advocate; and Ed Monahan, Current Public Advocate. Kim reported that after the October subcommittee meeting she spoke with Senator Neal and suggested utilizing the

Criminal Justice Commission as a resource to review recommendations and provide feedback from the perspective of the local criminal justice system. The Commission's Legislative Committee will track all proposed legislation and submit recommendations to the Criminal Justice Commission Board. The approved recommendations or position statements will then be forwarded to the Chair of the Jefferson County Delegation.

## **VII. ADJOURN/NEXT MEETING**

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in the Crown Room of the Judicial Center.